

REBECCA HALL.

MAY 7, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2091.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2091) granting a pension to Rebecca Hall, submit the following report:*

Your committee, after a careful examination of the papers in this case, find the following statement of the case, as set forth in the report of the Invalid Pensions Committee of the Forty-sixth Congress, to be correct, and therefore adopt their report, as follows:

The said Rebecca Hall is the widow of George R. Hall, who was a private in Company C, Forty-eighth Missouri Volunteers, from the 20th August, 1864, till discharged, June 29, 1865, and who died of disease alleged to have been contracted in said service March 12, 1875.

The declaration for pension states that the claimant's husband, while in the military service aforesaid, contracted the disease of mumps, which resulted in partial paralysis, rendering him unfit for service and unable to maintain himself by manual labor.

Samuel D. Smith and G. W. Smith testify that they were well acquainted with George R. Hall, and that when he returned from the service he was suffering at that time from the effects of the disease from which he afterwards died, and was entirely unfit to perform any kind of labor, "being drawn to one side and to some extent paralyzed, having but little use of his legs," and they further say that his condition remained unchanged till December, 1864; during the whole time he continued unable to walk erect, and was compelled to use a cane, and for weeks at a time unable to walk at all.

A. R. Forkner and Minerva Forkner testify that they saw the said soldier during the war, in November, 1864; that he was then in fine health, and that when they next saw him, in 1873, his health was entirely broken, and state his then condition to be as stated by the above two witnesses.

Francis Hall and A. Hall state that the soldier died of disease contracted in the service; that before his enlistment in the Army he was a strong, healthy man and free from disease; that his service in the Army broke his health.

Dr. Hiram Waller states that he first became acquainted with the soldier in 1871; that he was then unable to perform any manual labor, and the said doctor states that he at that time treated him professionally; that he had at that time a spinal affection and kidney disease, and that it was incurable.

Dr. Campbell makes the following statement: "I attended George R. Hall at or near the mouth of the Illinois River, in Illinois district, Cherokee Nation, who was afflicted with typhoid fever, complicated with dysentery; he died on the 12th day of March, 1875. His case was under my treatment, according to the best of my recollection, four or five days. I am of the opinion that his constitution was worn out by previous illness."

The War Department shows that the soldier was frequently treated in hospital during his service in the Army, but contains no particulars as to his disease.

The claim was rejected because, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Pensions, the disease of which the soldier died was not incident to his Army service.

The committee are of opinion that the claimant is entitled to pension, and recommend that the bill do pass, with the following amendment: Strike out all after the word "volunteers" in eighth line.

